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IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1. (currently amended) A method performed by a provider of a computer file to trigger updating of said computer file used by a computer in a database of computers, said method comprising the steps of:

(i)   providing an updated version of said computer file at a location from which it may be downloaded by said computer;

(ii)   sending a tag indicative of availability of said updated computer file to said database of computers; and

(iii)   maintaining said database of computers to which said tag is to be sent when an updated version of said computer file is made available, wherein said database of computers includes priority data indicating a priority level associated with an address, said priority level being used to control how rapidly after said updated version of said computer file is made available said tag is sent to said database of computers, said priority level controlling selection of one of a plurality of different finite delay periods after said updated version of said computer file is made available following which said tag is sent to said database of computers;

wherein said tag includes data indicative of a version level of said computer file;

wherein said tag is part of an e-mail message header.

2. (cancelled)

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3. (cancelled)

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said computer is connected to said location via an internet link.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein computer file is computer virus definition data.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said computer file is an anti-virus computer program file.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein sending of said tag upon availability of an updated version of said computer file is provided as a subscription service by said provider.

11. (currently amended) A computer program product recorded on a computer readable medium for use by a provider of a computer file to trigger updating of said

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computer file used by a computer said provider having provided an updated version of

said computer file at a location from which it may be downloaded by said computer, said

computer program product comprising:

(i)   tag sending code operable to send a tag indicative of availability of said

updated computer file to said computer; and

(ii)   database code operable to maintain a database of computers to which said

tag is to be sent when an updated version of said computer file is made available, wherein

said database includes priority data indicating a priority level associated with an address,

said priority level being used to control how rapidly after said updated version of said

computer file is made available said tag is sent to said computer, said priority level

controlling selection of one of a plurality of different finite delay periods after said

updated version of said computer file is made available following which said tag is sent

to said database of computers:

wherein said tag includes data indicative of a version level of said computer file;

wherein said tag is part of an e-mail message header.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 11, wherein said

computer is connected to said location via an internet link.

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15. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 11, wherein computer file is computer virus definition data.

16. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 11, wherein said computer file is an anti-virus computer program file.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 11, wherein sending of said tag upon availability of an updated version of said computer file is provided as a subscription service by said provider.

21. (currently amended) Apparatus for use by a provider of a computer file to trigger updating of said computer file used by a computer said provider having provided an updated version of said computer file at a location from which it may be downloaded by said computer, said apparatus comprising:

(i)   a tag sender operable to send a tag indicative of availability of said updated computer file to said computer; and

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(ii)   database logic operable to maintain a database of computers to which said

tag is to be sent when an updated version of said computer file is made available, wherein

said database includes priority data indicating a priority level associated with an address,

said priority level being used to control how rapidly after said updated version of said

computer file is made available said tag is sent to said computer, said priority level

controlling selection of one of a plurality of different finite delay periods after said

updated version of said computer file is made available following which said tag is sent

to said database of computers;

wherein said tag includes data indicative of a version level of said computer file;

wherein said tag is part of an e-mail message header.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said computer is

connected to said location via an internet link.

25. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein computer file is

computer virus definition data.

26. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said computer file is an

anti-virus computer program file.

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27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein sending of said tag upon availability of an updated version of said computer file is provided as a subscription service by said provider.

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